REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is submitted in response to the Office action mailed December 27, 2005. Applicant believes this Amendment and Response is fully responsive to the Office action. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10, and 12-14 are pending in the application and have been rejected by the Examiner. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 12. Claim 1 was amended to correct a typographical error introduced in the previous Amendment and Response. Claims 1 and 12 were amended and to make it clear that constant power is maintained at the power module for at least a portion of the charging period. Support for this limitation can be found, for example, paragraph [35] of the originally-filed specification. No new matter has been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, and 13[1] under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States patent number 6,621,256 issued to Muratov et al. (the "Muratov reference") in view of United States patent number 5,642,027 issued to Windes et al. (the "Windes reference"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1, from which claims 3, 4, 6, 7, and 10 depend, requires that the control circuit be adapted to maintain a constant power level at the power module during at least a portion of a charging period as a voltage level across the power module increases. As the Examiner admits, the Muratov reference does not teach or suggest at least a control circuit adapted to maintain a constant power level at the power module as a voltage level across the power module increases. The Examiner argues, however, that the Windes reference discloses such a control circuit and cites to column 3, lines 30-35 of the Windes reference.

In the Windes reference, capacitors (10a-10n) are switchably connected to high voltage charging source (16) via charging switches (12a-12n) and also switchably connected to voltage regulators (18a-18n) via discharging switches (14a-14n). The charging switches (12a-12n) and discharging switches (14a-14n) are operated so that the capacitors are either connected to the high voltage charging source (16) or the voltage regulators (18a-18n). *See column 3, lines 22-30.* The Examiner argues that the paragraph at column 3,

[1] The Office action lists the rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 8, 10, 12, and 13. However, claim 2 was previously canceled and is no longer pending.

lines 30-35 teaches the claimed control circuit adapted to maintain a constant power level at the power module as a voltage level across the power module increases. The paragraph, however, explicitly states that the voltage regulators (18a-18n) draw power from the capacitors (10a-10n) at a substantially constant rate. The Windes reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest maintaining a constant power level during at least a portion of the charging period at the power module as a voltage level across the power module increases. Thus, since neither the Muratov reference nor the Windes reference teaches or suggests each limitation of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, and 10 and to allow claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, and 10.

Claim 12, from which claim 13 depends, requires the power level supplied to the power module is kept constant during at least a portion of a charging period of the power module. As the Examiner admits, the Muratov reference does not teach or suggest at least providing a constant power level during at least a portion of the charging period of the power module. The Examiner argues, however, that the Windes reference discloses keeping a power level to the power module constant during charging of the power module and cites to column 1, lines 59-66 and column 3, lines 30-35 of the Windes reference.

In the Windes reference, capacitors (10a-10n) are switchably connected to high voltage charging source (16) via charging switches (12a-12n) and also switchably connected to voltage regulators (18a-18n) via discharging switches (14a-14n). The charging switches (12a-12n) and discharging switches (14a-14n) are operated so that the capacitors are either connected to the high voltage charging source (16) or the voltage regulators (18a-18n). *See column 3, lines 22-30.* The Examiner argues that the paragraph at column 3, lines 30-35 teaches the claimed requirement of providing a constant power level during at least a portion of the charging cycle of the power module. The paragraph, however, explicitly states that the voltage regulators (18a-18n) draw power from the capacitors (10a-10n) at a substantially constant rate. The Windes reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest maintaining a constant power level during at least a portion of the charging period at the power module. Thus, since neither the Muratov reference nor the Windes reference teaches or suggests each limitation of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 12 and 13 and to allow claims 12 and 13.

The Examiner also rejected claims 5, 9, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Muratov reference in view of the Windes reference and in

further view of United States patent number 5,519,307 issued to Moon (the "Moon reference"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claims 5 and 9 depend from claim 1, and claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 12 and include all the limitations of the claims from which they depend. For at least the reasons listed above with respect to claims 1 and 12, claims 5, 9, 14, and 15 are patentable because none of the Muratov, Windes, or Moon references teach or suggest each of the limitations of claims 5, 9, 14, and 15. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 5, 9, 14, and 15 and to allow claims 5, 9, 14, and 15.

The Examiner also rejected claims 6 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Muratov reference in view of the Windes reference and in further view of United States patent number 5,604,426 issued to Okamura et al. (the "Okamura reference"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claims 6 and 10 depend from claim 1 and include all the limitations of that claim. For at least the reasons listed above with respect to claim 1, claims 6 and 10 are patentable because none of the Muratov, Windes, or Okamura references teach or suggest each of the limitations of claims 6 and 10. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 6 and 10 and to allow claims 6 and 10.

This Amendment is submitted contemporaneously with a petition for a one-month extension of time in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.136(a). Accordingly, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-3199 in the amount of $60, for a one-month extension of time fee. The Applicant believes no further fees or petitions are required. However, if any such petitions or fees are necessary, please consider this a request therefore and authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-3199 accordingly.

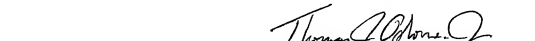
CONCLUSION

This Amendment and Response is submitted in response to the Office action mailed December 27, 2005. Applicant believes this Amendment and Response is fully responsive to the Office action. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10, and 12-14 are pending in the application and have been rejected by the Examiner. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 12. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if a telephone conference could help expedite the prosecution of the application.

Dated: April 27, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



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